百日の薔薇

hyakujitsu no bara

MAIDEN ROSE

volume 3, chapters 12-13

fusanosuke inariya

稲荷家房之介

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ADULTS ONLY

KLAUS!
ANSWER ME, KLAUS!!
KLAUS!
I HEAR YOU...
MY MASTER
it was-
LIKE
A LITTLE BIRD
a small taste of things to come.

巻頭カラー
待望の第3部、ついに始動!!
2人の運命が今、
動きだす…
百日の薔薇
HYAKUJITSUNO BARA
MAIDEN ROSE
NOW THEIR FATE
IS SET IN MOTION...
稲荷家房之介
FUSANOSUKE INARIYA
アクアコミックス
「百日の薔薇Ⅰ～Ⅱ」
大好評発売中!!

THE STORY SO FAR
TAKI ATTACKED THE ROYAL TRAIN CARRYING DUCHESS THEODORA OF EUROTE WHO WAS ATTEMPTING TO MIGRATE ILLEGALLY
TAKI HAD PLANNED TO HAVE THE DUCHESS ARRESTED, BUT SHE WAS ABLE TO SEEK POLITICAL ASYLUM
MEANWHILE KLAUS WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED FIGHTING BERKUT
WITH TAKI'S TREATMENT KLAUS MANAGED TO SURVIVE, BUT
IMPERIAL PALACE COUNCIL HALL DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HOW IS THE SITUATION IN REIZEN'S TERRITORY?
I CAN'T IMAGINE THEY'LL DOCILELY SUBMIT TO GENERAL ASAKURA'S DISCIPLINARY ORDERS
BUT PERHAPS BECAUSE THE WESTERN ALLIANCE HAS TEMPORARILY STOPPED ATTACKING
WE'RE CURRENTLY NOT SEEING ANY OVERT MOVES FROM THEM
...
IS THAT SO

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR AS WELL AS THE NINE OFFICES, WILL NEED TO WORK CLOSELY
WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AS THEY RESTART NEGOTIATIONS WITH EUROTE FROM SQUARE ONE
WELL THEN
WHAT SHOULD WE DO FROM HERE?
OUR COUNTRY IS JUST AN IDEAL CORRIDOR TO TAKE AND OPEN ON THE WAY TO EUROTE
TO THOSE WESTERN ALLIANCE PEOPLE,
AND OUR RESOURCES ARE TAXED JUST DEFENDING THE MAINLAND
WHAT THE HELL IS THE MILITARY SCHEMING UNDER ALL THIS CONFUSION
UNLESS EUROTE SUBDUES THEM WITH THE SWORD,
WE'LL NEVER BE FREE OF THEIR THREAT

TO START WITH,
LET'S GO MEET THEM
HUH?
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?
I SAID LET'S GO MEET THEM-
【タキ・レイゼン】機甲師団「ローゼンメイデン」師団長。敵の拠点に自ら出撃する、有能な指揮官。
【クラウス・フォン・ヴォルフシュタット】タキの元学友で今はタキに仕える騎士。周りからは狂犬とも呼ばれている。

THE EUROTEAN DUCHESS AND HER ASSOCIATES
WHO VE BEEN DETAINED IN REIZEN S TERRITORY
THE ROZEN MAIDEN DIVISION COMMANDER
WHO S BEEN STIRRING UP SO MUCH TROUBLE RECENTLY
FIRST OF THE EIGHT BRANCH FAMILIES- TAKI REIZEN
AND AFTER THAT
THE ONE WHO NONCHALANTLY CAME BACK ALIVE
FROM NO MAN S LAND
REIZEN S DOG

NEXT!

TAKI-SAMA!
THAT WAS WAY TOO MUCH LIKE THE REAL THING!
TRAINING IS SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THE REAL THING!
SMACK!
OWW!
WHOA
DATE SURE GOT HIS ASS KICKED
WELL HE DID CHALLENGE TAKI-SAMA
EVEN THOUGH HE'S INJURED
OH, A GUY FROM THE INFANTRY UNIT
AH—
AH!
FLOP

I WONDER IF IT'S BECAUSE
TAKI-SAMA'S REALLY OUT OF SORTS, HUH?
HE'S BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH LATELY
BUT IN THE END ALMOST ALL OF IT BACKFIRED
YOU CAN'T BLAME HIM
HE DID EVERYTHING HE COULD.
ぎゅっ

HAS BEEN PROHIBITED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
BY CENTRAL COMMAND.
THE WHOLE INVESTIGATION INTO THAT BUNCH OF CAPTURED EUROTEENS
ANOTHER BODY'S SURFACED!
SO THEY'RE SAYING
SUPPOSEDLY BECAUSE THEY'RE ASYLUM-SEEKERS.
REALLY?
THIS IS SOMETHING THAT'S NOT UP TO THE WILL OF ONE DIVISION COMMANDER?
ONLY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CAN DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO ACCEPT THEIR CLAIMS
SHIT!
THEY'RE STILL WASHING UP?
ISN'T THAT THE EIGHTEENTH ONE SO FAR?

IT'S HARD TO MAKE OUT
BECAUSE IT'S CONTAM-INATED WITH DIRT AND
THAT'S
HEY!
LOOK AT THIS!
THIS ONE'S GOT GUNSHOT WOUNDS TOO
THE EVIDENCE IS PRETTY DAMAGING
SO-
THAT'S WHAT'S GOING ON
EVEN THE RIVER
COULDN'T WASH THE FOAM OF BLOOD FROM HIS SKIN

TAKI SAMA...?

カ
カーン
カンカーン
<SFX SWORD PRACTICE>
カーン
WOLFSTADT
JEEZ THAT GUY

SORRY
YOU HAD TO COME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE FOR ME.
NOT HALF AS SORRY AS I AM
OLD MAN...
BUT
WHAT-EVER.
CONSIDERING THE CIRCUM-STANCES, IT C N'T BE HELPED.
HERE'S
THE STUFF YOU WANTED.
I THOUGHT YOU STOPPED USING THAT CRAP.
THANKS
THIS SHOULD DO FOR A WHILE

AND YOU'RE NOT UNDER SOME OBLIGATION TO RISK YOUR LIFE HERE... YOU KNOW
THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU
OR HAVE YOU BECOME ALL SERIOUS NOW?
...
CHARGE IT TO THE USUAL ACCOUNT
TAKE OUT WHATEVER YOU LIKE
WOLF-STADT
DON'T BLOW YOUR CHANCE TO GET OUT
YOU'RE GONNA BURN

YOU-
REALLY ARE BEING JUST LIKE MY OLD MAN, AREN'T YOU?
HAH-
HA HA HA HA!
GETTING A CRUSH ON ME?
AND IT'S NOT LIKE YOU, EITHER
WH
I'M JUST KIDDING
DIE LIKE A DOG
I JUST FEEL BAD SEEING SOMEONE FROM MY OWN SIDE
YOU DUMB BASTARD
THANKS FOR THE WARNING
YOU WATCH YOUR BACK TOO
THE SEARCH FOR TRAITORS HAS GOTTEN INTENSE
I'LL BE LEAVING HERE ANY DAY NOW
OLD MAN-
AND THE JOB IS BECOMING TOO DIFFICULT

COULD YOU DO ME
ONE LAST FAVOR?

ンカ

NEXT!!!

ALL RIGHT THEN.
I'LL BE YOUR PARTNER

KLAUS
OH LOOK-
SOMETHING ENTERTAINING
IS ABOUT TO START
アクア
12月号に続く
NEXT

Maiden Rose

A BLIMP?

IT'S AN ANTIQUE

THE LAST ONE

LEFT OVER FROM BEFORE THEY WERE ALL BURNED DURING THE GREAT WAR

HAVE YOU EVER RIDDEN IN A BLIMP?

NO

MOM HATED THEM

SHE ALWAYS SAID THE HELL WITH THOSE POKEY BALLOONS

HA HA HA
SHE WOULD SAY SOME-THING LIKE THAT.
SEEING YOU REMINDS ME OF HER
YOU LOOK JUST LIKE HER
FROM THE TIME SHE FIRST KNEW THE WIND, THE SKY WAS HER HEAVEN
SHE WAS A NOBLE ROSE WHO WOULDN'T BELONG TO ANYONE
NONE OF US WOULD HAVE IMAGINED SHE'D TAKE YOUR FATHER'S HAND
MAYBE SOME-DAY
SOMEONE WILL COME ALONG FOR YOU TOO
AND YOUR POINT IS WHAT?
YOU DIDN'T CALL ME HERE SO WE COULD CHAT ABOUT OLD TIMES DID YOU?

AN EXCHANGE STUDENT HAS COME FROM THE EAST
TO STUDY MECHANIZED UNIT MANAGEMENT
HERE AT LUCKENWALDE ARMOR SCHOOL
YOUR JOB
WILL BE TO GET CLOSE TO HIM AS A SCHOOL FRIEND,
AND OBSERVE HIM FOR US

KLAUS,
WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE,
YOU WENT TO HIS COUNTRY, RIGHT?
the moment he accepted his mission.
日日の薔薇
Fusanosuke Inariya
稲荷家房之介

AS YOU KNOW-
THEY FORMED AN ALLIANCE WITH EUROTE AND ENGAGED IN HOSTILITIES AGAINST US
DURING THE GREAT WAR
SINCE THEN PEACE HAS RETURNED
AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS HAVE BEEN RESTORED
BUT THERE ARE SURE TO BE THOSE WHO STILL HOLD A GRUDGE
THEN WHY WAS HE ACCEPTED HERE?

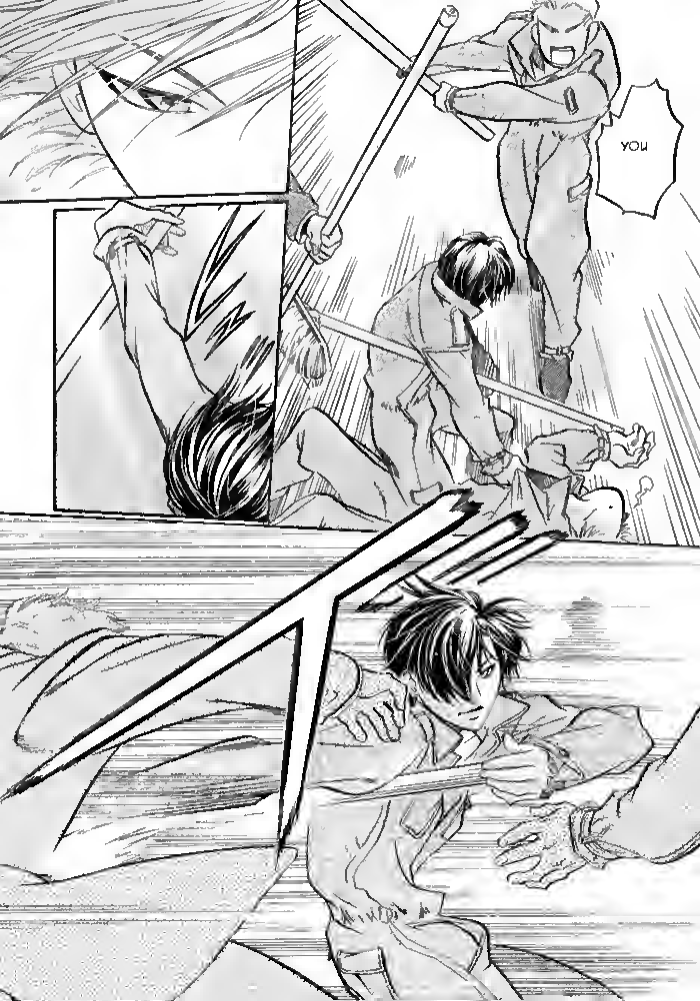
TANKS
HE'S MADE AN OFFER TO PURCHASE
120 OF THE LATEST MODEL
APPARENTLY
AND THEN HAVE US INSTRUCT HIM ON THEIR USE AS WELL?
IS HE OUT OF HIS MIND?
PLANNING TO BUY ARMS FROM THE WEST
WHILE UNDER EUROTE'S PROTECTION?

IT SEEMS LIKE IT
SO-
WE WANT TO KNOW HIS TRUE INTENTIONS
OR HAS HE COME HERE INDEPENDENTLY TO BUILD THE STRENGTH OF HIS OWN FORCES?
DOES HE PLAN TO GO OVER EUROTE'S HEAD
AND OPEN TALKS WITH US DIRECTLY?
AND IF SO-
IS THAT A SIGN
THAT EUROTE IS SET TO MOVE AGAIN?

YES?
HAS ITS OWN TRADITIONS
EVERY SCHOOL
SORRY!
AH-
HEY!
BUT THE ONES HERE
PARTICULARLY VICIOUS

OUT OF MY WAY!
LET ME THROUGH!
HEY!
CUT IT OUT, YOU GUYS...
CRAP!
AM I TOO LATE?

WH
WHAT
THE
THAT
BASTARD!
SHIT!
GET
HIM!


YOU

WELL, I'LL BE DAMNED
HE'S LIKE
AN ALLEY CAT

OKAY NOW
THAT'S ENOUGH ALREADY
WAIT JUST A MINUTE
I-

I SAID SETTLE DOWN!
HEY!
JEEZ...

WHAT
THE

FLOWERS?

SLOW DOWN!
IF YOU JUST
WAIT A-
AH!
-NGH
トン
OW!
SHIT

〒155-8601 東京都世田谷区下北沢1-13-6 NKビル3F
コミックアース編集部内 稲荷家房之介先生

稲荷家房之介先生に感想のお便り待ってます！

ガシャ
ズルズルズ
ガ
ズルズル
コツ
コツコツ
カツ
カツ
WOW
THAT WAS
DAMN

HEY!
THIS REALLY IS LIKE SEARCHING FOR A STRAY CAT...
JEEZ
COME ON OUT!
WHERE'D YOU GO?

DON'T TOUCH ME WITH THAT HAND

SORRY
UH HEY-
DO THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY
ALWAYS TORMENT THE OUTNUMBERED WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT?
NO THAT WAS
HE BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF ALL OF THEM SINGLE-HANDEDLY
SO MUCH PRIDE
DO THEY ALL RESPOND WITH VIOLENCE
TO SOMEONE THEY HAVEN'T EVEN EXCHANGED WORDS WITH YET
AND HE STILL FEELS SO HURT HE'S CRYING?
WELL UM...

ISSUES WITH YOUR PAPER-WORK
DELAYED YOUR ADMISSION BY A WEEK RIGHT?
THINK OF IT AS A WEEK-LATE WELCOMING PARTY
A traditional Western event
THEY DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM
THEY WERE JUST TESTING YOUR METTLE
GO EASY ON THEM
THE LORD OF REIZEN.
TAKI REIZEN
JUST 18 YEARS OLD

I'M KLAUS VON WOLFSTADT
MY JOB
IS TO GET AS CLOSE TO HIM AS POSSIBLE
AND PUT A BELL ON HIS NECK
YOUR ROOM-MATE
PLEASED TO MEET YOU
アクア 2月号に続く
NEXT

geopolitics

the political situation in Maiden Rose is complicated and I'm still not sure I understand it completely myself

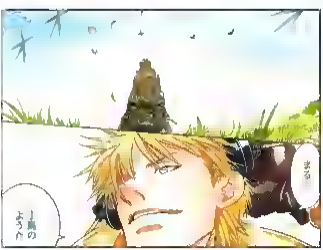
The sides in the current war are Eurote and Taki's country (whose name has never been given in the text) versus the Western Alliance. And in the previous war (the "Great War"), the sides by the end of the conflict were the same as they are now.

What's less clear is how everything ended up the way it is, and how satisfied the various players are with the current arrangements.

I initially mistranslated this panel from chapter 7 of volume 2 (I'm so sorry!). It should say "The Western Alliance, which had invaded in order to secure a route to the ocean." This implies that the Western Alliance was the initial aggressor against Taki's country, and indeed this seems to be the position endorsed by the diplomatic arm of Taki's government in the current chapters.

Taki himself, on the other hand, clearly dislikes Eurote, and there are some hints in the story that Eurote's position as protector of Taki's country is not a benign one. The military higher-ups in the person of General Asakura also don't seem to like Eurote much, and the land between Taki's country and Eurote (which once belonged to Taki's family) is called No Man's Land, a designation usually given to a contested area which neither of two enemy parties is able to capture. Although the fighting that occured in that area seems to have been between the Western Alliance and Taki's country, the land was actually ceded not to the Western Alliance, but as part of the terms of the treaty between Taki's country and Eurote.

subtext

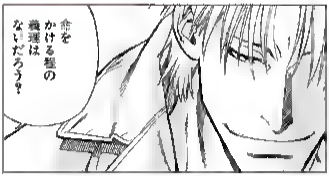


"like a little bird" (ch. 12, p. 01)

Unlike English, Japanese does not require differentiation between singular and plural.

So this piece of text actually says both "like a little bird" and "like little birds". Klaus is referring both to Taki's voice and to the warplanes he sees flying overhead in the distance. The implicit comparison is therefore that he longs for both, but can have neither.

subtext



"And you're not under some obligation to risk your life here" (ch 12, p 15)

The word 義理 ("giri") which I translated here as "obligation" does not have an exact English equivalent Similar to "duty" or "social obligation" giri is more far-reaching and central to Japanese society than either of these

Encompassing the entire web of reciprocal social demands that hold together a relationship focused society like Japan giri (according to the all-knowing google) is one of the fundamental cornerstones of Japanese ethics Willingness to meet the demands of one's giri is central to a Japanese person's self concept (at least traditionally) and the unreasonableness or even impossibility of an obligation does not necessarily absolve one of it

Many though not all relationships that involve giri are hierarchical Some examples are parent/child teacher/student employer/employee and ruler/subject In these relationships giri is mutual Although the exact nature of the demands on each party will be different, both parties owe loyalty to and have obligations towards the other

In Japanese literature one of the oldest and most popular themes is "giri-ninjou" the conflict between a person's social duty and their natural human inclinations Taki's issues in Maiden Rose are largely those of giri-ninjou He cannot both love Klaus wholly and also fulfill his duty to his subjects

In the conversation that this panel is a part of, the man speaking to Klaus is unclear as to exactly what giri he thinks Klaus has that isn't worth Klaus risking his life over The context heavily implies he is Klaus' handler for the Western Alliance and that he is referring to whatever duty he feels Klaus may have to the Western Alliance as a spy None of this is ever stated outright however and in the end may not turn out to be the case

In any event Klaus' wry smile makes it clear that his own understanding of his giri gained in volume 2 is substantially more demanding By becoming Taki's lover Klaus has essentially inherited Taki's giri in its entirety In order to have Taki Klaus must first save Taki's land and subjects and therefore must also win the war for Taki's country The fact that doing so is presumably impossible is unfortunate but immaterial